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NEW MEXICO'S SOIL RESOURCES; POSSIBILITIES AND THEIR GREAT NEED OF DEVELOPMENT

"What's the Matter With New Mexico" is Told by One Who has Traveled Much

Comparison Between New Mexico and States Which are now Further Advanced Through Development

By THE WANDERER

If you would know a country thoroughly in briefest time, adopt pedestrianism. Which, in my case, is "swell lingo" for "turn tramp." None of your Princeton Walter Wyheoffs, with letters of introduction and credit, nor yet a Westonian faddist whose ebullient enthusiasm wanes at the first week's end of "sleeping out" and teeth over-sharp from contact with the crusts of poverty. Necessity and—something irrelevant here—rendered me at the very eastern edge of New Mexico, the genuine peripatetic, tired of watchdogs, mark for brakemen, spotted of constables and familiar to backdoors and housewives.

Over three-fourths of the distance has been traversed afoot; slowly, when a bit of work has procured the much-needed meal and a dime or so; rapidly when the next habitation was miles away and night threatened. Six weeks of this, albeit half that went into work, in some of the sixty-five ways of making a living I now hold with Faust. And so claim is laid to a degree of insight into the mental and moral calibre of the average citizen of this section, and an estimate of the resources and possibilities of the land traversed; assisted in formation, perhaps, by a previous experience in almost every Western state.

The curses of this land are "Uncle Sam farming" and illiteracy. The census gives twenty-nine per cent. of the latter, and a reasonable enumeration of the degree of the former in the section between Alamogordo and Texas, would be ninety. Townsite frauds might well be classed as third of the disgraces. Time and statehood, with compulsory education, will cure illiteracy and the townsite deviations are fast being straightened through publicity. But that "Uncle Sam farming" is a genuine evil, difficult of eradication. I ran across it at the outskirts of Nara Visa, first town across the border; and encountered it in plenty near Obar, where I spent the night at Battling Nelson's ranch. By the way, the puglistic Dane's house is a tasty little abode, with hot and cold water, and—miracle of the desert squatters—a sure enough, ciliated bath room. From Logan, in a cross-country drive with a former Kansan, the practice is seen in its finest fruition. Twenty-nine miles, and practically every 320 acres taken up; two-thirds of the houses empty; the soil, as was evidenced by vegetation and the pitifully sporadic cultivated bits, fruitful under a fair degree of cultivation. Four miles from Bard we came into a German settlement and in no part of arid America can better crops be grown. Three days later I saw telegrams from Colorado Springs stating that the products of this same little settlement and those of a handful of adjoining Kansas

emigrants, had taken first prizes at the Dry Farming display held there, over the entire country on four great crops, millet, sorghum, kafir and maize. On the way over my cicero said: "Half of the homesteaders here are school teachers, lawyers and doctors and professional people that are suffering from lung trouble. They come out, stay a few months and lie home. The other half are the kind Texas was glad to get rid of and suffering from chronic laziness." And so it was, from that little spot clear on down past Montoya and Santa Rosa and Vaughn; over the truly arid divide, until within the confines of the territory tributary to this little city. One comes to know the earmarks: a scratch patch, an eight by ten shack, a 'dobe barn with grass roof, and, if inhabited at all, a pair of hungry hounds, a mournful looking mule, a handful of hens, and maybe a bunch of frowsy young uns. I could but hark back to a less hospitable clime and less fruitful soil and picture that section if a colony of Utah Mormons had been transplanted there, say three years ago; or if a band of Pennsylvania Dutch were uprooted from their rocky patches and scattered along the trail. An ardent believer in the Shake-perian philosophy: "The hand of little usage hath the daintier touch." Nevertheless, there was, and, revolt within my hobo soul over those whose "farming" but masks indolence and cupidity for a "sucker sale."

You pass from the "bear-grass" country, that succor of the "stay-er" which provides winter work and provender—and at a pittance price worthy of Capital's notice—to where the vegetation takes on the size and semblance of dwarf trees and note that the soil texture is firmer. No hillocks about the vegetation, soil redder—more iron, geologists aver. And in the distance there looms presently that which, one is fearful, must be a mirage. Trees, dear, home-hearkening, giant bouquets kissed now to saffron and gold, but unmistakably genuine trees. They quite conceal the town which, a fellow-wanderer, knowing in this route, tells me passes as Tularosa. And, cheered, the hike to this Alamogordo is hit up.

He were indeed a deadened soul whom the air of this November in New Mexico envelops with no quickening, or whose eye can dwell unmoved upon the serrated peaks, lifting themselves from the far-stretching valley on either hand in strangely beautiful blend of color schemes. Anon a hoary peak, with everlasting crown of white, must engender reverence, even as the head of beloved old age. Inspirational, this; but I confess to a gloating sense of joy quite as real and more durable, in the first view of the park in Alamogordo. Orderly trees and

likewise in profusion; a grass plot, all same New York Central, fronting the depot; a band of deer; swans; lagoons and arbors; a miniature menagerie. Bless my soul, what wrought this! (En passant, I take hobo license and express fervid desire that the weary-pacing bear escapes to the hills some night.) I had heard in Carrizozo that the company which owned much of that town had large interests here; but Carrizozo is as zigzag and unharmonious as its name. Here is order and beauty; wide streets, as unbragous as century-old New England. I knew that I was in the presence of concentrated, intelligent wealth; that the solution of rendering the towns and cities in New Mexico inviting to the outside civilization lies neither in the fellow who went close-to-broke in Oklahoma and hit the territory to build a quick-lunch shake-down; nor yet in the sheep rich New Mexican who reverts to type and clings to mud walls and an inner court.

This soil is an asset, but until better methods of tillage, practiced by another breed of farmers, comes to the fore, much of this section will remain as it is—an agricultural wast. This particular spot with almost purely American face, with irrigation, is availing itself of an equally great asset, a succession, a rarely broken procession of days more perfect than Lowell's June, and an air which is balm to the weary, restoration to the stricken, exhilaration to the jaded and joy to the strong.

You must know that no genuine hobo harbors hatred for wealth or the habitat thereof, and for the obvious reason that in such lie his sunniest paths of "assistance." And so I gave thanks, as I know the good citizens here must, for the accumulated energy of thousands of men drawn into the hands of a daring and far-seeing few and diverted to the beautification of the only garden spot in a vast barrenness, the glorification of the fertility of this potentially marvelous soil.

Throughout Utah, Nevada, Southern Idaho, Western Kansas, Colorado and the "arid belt" they measure the potentiality of the soil by the size of the sage brush. The vegetation and shrubbery about this city is fully as large as that of the most favored sections there. The first prize for flour made from No. 1 hard went to the Trenton Milling Company, a small concern milling a wheat grown in Northern Utah, at an altitude of 5,200 feet, up on the mesas where ten years ago a goat wouldn't have been put to pasture. The lands about Grand Junction and Palisades, Colorado, sell for from \$800 to \$2,000 per acre. The soil is so super-permeated with alkali that it must be flooded and

(continued in editorial column)

INSTRUCTION TRAINS AND STATE FAIRS HELP

The Department of Agriculture Shows Benefits

SEVENTY-ONE OF FORMER 12,000 OF THE LATTER

Principal Value Along Lines of Education

Washington, Nov. 27.—Secretary Wilson stated today that the Agricultural Department in conjunction with Farmers' Institutions conducted 71 instruction trains covering tours of over 40,000 miles during the last year, and that the Department has collected and published information respecting the organization and conduct of county fairs. Over 12,000 fair associations are in operation in the several States, representing a membership of over 246,000. In 1909 their gross income was about six and one-half millions of dollars, and the amount paid in premiums over two and one-half millions. The attendance that year was between fifteen and sixteen millions.

In speaking of results and effects of this work the Secretary said: "The awakening of the people to the value of agricultural instruction and to the possibilities of usefulness through extension teaching has created a demand for this instruction far beyond the power of the States to supply. The inadequacy of present equipment for meeting the agricultural educational needs of rural people has become so apparent that several bills have been presented before Congress looking to additional appropriations for carrying on extension work. The States also are adding annually to their appropriations for agricultural extension in very marked degree. California during the past year increased her appropriation from \$10,000 for institute work to \$15,000 per year; Illinois, from \$23,650 to \$29,000; Kansas, from \$27,500 to \$35,000; Minnesota, from \$18,000 to \$23,000; Nebraska, from \$10,000 to \$17,500; New York, \$25,000 to \$35,000; Ohio, \$22,000 to \$26,400; Oklahoma, \$5,000 to \$10,500; South Dakota, \$9,400 to \$13,000; Utah, \$5,000 to \$10,000; and Washington, \$8,500 to \$10,000. These appropriations show in an unmistakable way growing interest in agricultural improvement by the States and their confidence in the value of the work of the farmers' institutes as well as appreciation of what they have done for agriculture in the past."

William, Highflyer

Young William, plead, cajoled, and sighed,

He did not ask in vain;
To him, on Christmas, was supplied

A nice, new aeroplane.

He flew it to a fearful height,

But did not do it long—

Which is the reason why I write

This aeroplaintive song!
—December Woman's Home Companion.

H. C. Booth of Commerce, Texas, is here visiting Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Oliver. Mr. Booth is Mrs. Oliver's father.

NECESSARY TO CALL OFF NEM STATE SPECIAL

Could Not Obtain Required One Hundred Passengers

COMMITTEE WORKED HARD PEOPLE TOO BUSY

Delegates To Boost New Mexico At Irrigation Congress

Albuquerque, Nov. 27.—The New Mexico Committee of the National Irrigation Congress has found it necessary to call off the proposed New State Special train to Chicago for the nineteenth session of the Congress, Dec. 5th to 9th. This because it was impossible to secure the necessary 100 passengers required by the railroad company for the operation of the special train. The latest date on which orders for the train could be placed is the above, and the necessary number not being enrolled, the enterprise has been abandoned.

The committee has worked very hard for the success of this train and under different circumstances would have been successful. As it is, the committee has determined not to attempt to bring the delegates together before they reach Chicago. A strong delegation is assured. The members will make the trip as best suits their individual convenience. The railway rates remain exactly the same as they would have been for the special train; viz: \$56.30 round trip, points between El Paso and Albuquerque; \$59.40 round trip points between Las Vegas and Raton; rates from Pecos Valley and other points in proportion.

The Congress will open December 5 at 10 a. m., and it is hoped that all New Mexico delegates may be present at the first session. New Mexico headquarters will be in the Auditorium hotel on Michigan avenue. This has been decided on because the sessions of the congress, registration headquarters, etc., will be in the Auditorium theater, making this hotel the most convenient for delegates. Col. W. S. Hopewell, of Albuquerque, member of the National Board of Governors will be in charge at New Mexico headquarters and all New Mexico delegates should communicate with him at once on their arrival in Chicago.

Yours very truly,
H. B. HENING,
Secretary.

Leo Anderson Transferred

Leo Anderson, forest ranger in charge of the Carrissa station, received a telegram Monday morning offering him a place in the Carson National Forest, in the upper end of the state. He accepted the offer and left Monday morning for the Carrissa station, to get his horses. He will make the trip of 350 miles, overland.

Down Fine

"Now, Willie," said the superintendent's little boy addressing the blacksmith's little boy, who had come over for a frolic, "we'll play 'Sabbath School'. You give me a nickel every Sunday for six months, and then at Christmas I'll give you a ten-cent bag of candy."—December Woman's Companion.

ALAMOGORDO TO HAVE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK

Save Attached Bank Accounts— Deposit With Uncle Sam

CHILDREN SHOULD SAVE THEIR MONEY

No Deposits Less Than Six Months Two Per Cent. Paid

The Postoffice Department at Washington has designated the Alamogordo postoffice as a postal savings bank. The savings bank feature of the local postoffice will be made effective on December 20. This is an addition to the long string of postoffices in New Mexico that already have been designated as savings depositories under the protection and direction of His Majesty, Uncle Sam.

This postal savings depository is as yet more or less in the experimental stage, but in the towns where the experiment has been tried, it has been found not to conflict appreciably with the established banking institutions. It is intended more to cultivate the habit of saving on the part of those who ordinarily do not have a bank account, and is said to appeal especially to children.

Deposits are accepted only on time deposit, no open accounts being received. An interest rate of two per cent. is allowed, but the deposit must remain the period of six months. The making of the deposits is very simple and requires about the same amount of time as to register a letter or to make an application for a money order. The accounts are strictly confidential, and while they are not subject to check or draft, it is true also that they cannot be attached for debt or for any other cause, under any process of law. This last named feature is making the postal banks find favor with some depositors.

Hoboes Save Lives

The hobo, much despised as he is, is not altogether without usefulness, as was demonstrated Wednesday afternoon. Two of the members of this tribe discovered a broken rail on the El Paso and Southwestern and flagged the local. The crew of the local repaired the track in time for the limited to go over in safety. It is very likely that but for the work of the hoboes, the local would have been wrecked and all of the crew possibly killed.

Presbyterian Church Services

December the third, the respective sermons at eleven a. m. and seven p. m. will be "Heaven" and "Whiter than the Snow." At the morning service the choir will sing "There's a Beautiful Country," by Parks, and at the evening service our mixed quartette will sing "Blessed be the Fountain," by Perkins. Welcome to all worshipping with us.

J. A. ARMSTRONG,
Minister.

Notice

Alamo chapter No. 11, O. E. S. Important business requires a full attendance of all members, Monday night, Dec. 4.
Mrs. C. COMBS,
Secy.